

University of Montana ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Max S. Baucus Speeches

Max S. Baucus Papers

12-2000

Democratic Central Committee Elections

Max S. Baucus

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/baucus_speeches

Recommended Citation

Baucus, Max S., "Democratic Central Committee Elections" (December 1, 2000). *Max S. Baucus Speeches*. 717.
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/baucus_speeches/717

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Max S. Baucus Papers at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Max S. Baucus Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Printing, Graphics & Direct Mail
Document Archiving
Indexing Form

Senator * or Department*: **BAUCUS**

Instructions:

Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.

Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.

For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: Speeches

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: December-2000

(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: Remarks of Senator Max Baucus

(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* Democratic Central Committee Elections

DOCUMENT DATE*: 12/01/2000

(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"



winter
2000

Good
copy

Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
To Democratic Central Committee Elections

Good evening, everyone.

It's an honor to be speaking to you tonight. Before I begin, I want to say two words -- Thank You. I had a very tough race last year. Without your help, your advice, and your activism, it might not have turned out so well.

IMPORTANCE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING

The face of the Montana delegation in Washington has changed a lot since I first came here. We're down to two Republicans and one Democrat. And this year Pat's Democratic leadership will be sorely missed.

But we are still a proud party -- with a vision that is right for Montana. We stand for the values that are the core of what is best about America: fairness, compassion, freedom and opportunity. I believe the Montana Democratic party can translate these values from rhetoric to policy.

And that is why your task is more important than ever. You will be deciding the future of our party -- who will lead us and who will make decisions as we go forward. Make no mistake about it, you are undertaking serious business tonight. Our founding fathers first got together in rooms probably very similar to this one. They started at the grassroots level -- just like we must now do.

We've come a long way since the revolutionary times of our country's beginnings. But today the situations we face are very grave. The Montana Democratic party is at a crossroads. It is fair to say we are in trouble. In the past few years, we've lost a lot of races we should have won. We struggled in some that should have been easy. We've been outnumbered nearly 2-1 in both of the last two sessions of the Legislature.

We cannot allow that anymore. Because these results are more than statistics in history books. They mean real decisions about the quality of life we all enjoy. We have witnessed the travesty of a Legislature rejecting aid to education, cutting

university funding and debating the proposals of militia groups.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO

We face an uphill battle. Yet the path we need to take is clear.

It starts now. I encourage you to fill every vacant office tonight. Next, in a few months, you will elect new county chairs. Make sure that you select people who will participate and be part of the process. That is the only way you will have a voice in the party.

Third, during the next year, we need to recruit candidates for all 125 Legislature seats. We must seek out people who are dedicated to public service. If you are unable to find anyone in your district, you ought to run yourself. You owe it to your party, your state, your neighbors.

And fourth, if you already have a candidate in your district, go out and recruit at least ten new dues-paying Democratic party members. People who will work the phones and get out the vote on election day. Who will make sure we compete and win in every precinct. Who will elect our candidates, and make our vision of Montana's future a reality.

I know the things I've just said aren't easy. I am asking you for your help. But at the same time, I am making a commitment to you. I am raising the bar for myself.

A few weeks ago, I sent over 8,000 letters to Montanans -- some of them Independents, some Democrats who have drifted away and even some Republicans -- asking them to become members of the Democratic party. I will continue this work.

And that leads me to my final point, you have one more election tonight that you didn't expect. I want you to elect someone at the meeting tonight to give me a call tomorrow. I want your designee to let me know how your elections turn out. I also want that person to give me at least two suggestions as to what I can do to help the Montana Democratic party. I want to play an active role in the party and I need your input.

CONCLUSION

Together we can rejuvenate the Montana Democratic party. I envision great things on our horizon. As Democrats, we stand for what is best about America. We need to fight proudly for what we believe in. And if we do, two years from tonight we will sit down at these elections with a lot more to celebrate.

Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
To Democratic Central Committee Elections

Good evening, everyone.

It's an honor to be speaking to you tonight. Before I begin, I want to say two words -- Thank You. I had a very tough race last year. Without your help, your advice, and your activism, it might not have turned out so well.

IMPORTANCE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING

The face of the Montana delegation in Washington has changed quite a bit since I've been here. We're down to two Republicans and one Democrat. This year, ~~Pat's leadership is sorely missed.~~

we really miss PAT'S DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP.

And that's why ~~what you are doing~~ ^{*your task*} tonight is more important than ever. You will be deciding the future of our party -- ~~who~~ ^{*WE ARE STILL*} will lead us and who will make decisions as we go forward. ~~Make~~ ^{*A PROUD PARTY, WITH A VISION THAT IS RIGHT FOR MONTANA. WE WANT TO*} no mistake about it, you are undertaking serious business tonight. Our founding fathers first got together in rooms probably very similar to this one. They started at the grassroots level -- just like we must now do.

*IMPROVE EDUCATION, PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, AND
SO FAMILIES CAN ENJOY LIFE TOGETHER.*

We've come a long way since the revolutionary times of our country's beginnings. But today the situations we face are very grave. The Montana Democratic party is at a crossroads. It is fair to say we are in trouble. In the past few years, we've lost a lot of races we should have won. We struggled in some that should have been easy. We've been outnumbered nearly 2-1 in both of the last two sessions of the Legislature.

We cannot allow that anymore. Because these results are more than statistics in history books. They mean real decisions about the quality of life we all enjoy. We have witnessed the travesty of a Legislature rejecting aid to education, cutting university funding and debating the proposals of militia groups.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO

We face an uphill battle. Yet the path we need to take is clear.

It starts now. I encourage you to fill every vacant office tonight. Next, in a few months, you will elect new county chairs. Make sure that you select people who will participate and be part of the process. That is the only way you will have a voice in the party.

Third, during the next year, we need to recruit candidates for all 125 Legislature seats. We must seek out people who are dedicated to public service. If you are unable to find anyone in your district, you ought to run yourself. You owe it to your party, your state, your neighbors.

And fourth, if you already have a candidate in your district, go out and recruit at least ten new dues-paying Democratic party members. People who will work the phones and get out the vote on election day. Who will make sure we compete and win in every precinct. Who will elect our candidates, and make our vision of Montana's future a reality.

I know the things I've just said aren't easy. I am asking you for your help. But at the same time, I am making a commitment to you. I am raising the bar for myself.

A few weeks ago, I sent over 8,000 letters to Montanans -- some of them Independents, some Democrats who have drifted away and even some Republicans -- asking them to become members of the Democratic party. I will continue this work.

And that leads me to my final point, you have one more election tonight that you didn't expect. I want you to elect someone at the meeting tonight to give me a call tomorrow. I want your designee to let me know how your elections turn out. I also want that person to give me at least two suggestions as to what I can do to help the Montana Democratic party. I want to play an active role in the party and I need your input.

CONCLUSION

Together we can rejuvenate the Montana Democratic party. I envision great things on our horizon. As Democrats, we stand for what is best about America. We need to fight proudly for what we believe in. And if we do, two years from tonight we will sit down at these elections with a lot more to celebrate.

cc: mail JP - DOG

Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
To Democratic Central Committee Elections

Good evening, everyone.

It's ^{ah how} ~~good~~ to be speaking to you ~~all~~ tonight. Before I begin, I want to say two words -- Thank You. I had a very tough race last year. Without your help, your advice, and your activism, it might not have turned out so well.

IMPORTANCE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING

It's gotten a lot lonelier out in Washington these days. I'm missing Pat more than ever.

And that's why what you are doing tonight is more important than ever. You will be deciding the future of our party -- who will lead us and who will make decisions as we go forward. Make no mistake about it, you are undertaking serious business tonight. Our founding fathers first got together in rooms probably very similar to this one. They started at the grassroots level -- just like we must now do.

We've come a long way since the revolutionary times of our country's beginnings. But today the situations we face are very grave. The Montana Democratic party is at a crossroads. It is fair to say we are in trouble. In the past few years, we've lost a lot of races we should have won. We struggled in some that should have been easy. We've been outnumbered nearly 2-1 in both of the last two sessions of the Legislature.

We cannot allow that anymore. Because these results are more than statistics in history books. They mean real decisions about the quality of life we all enjoy. We have witnessed the travesty of a Legislature rejecting aid to education, cutting university funding and debating the proposals of militia groups.

BUT IT IS UP TO US TO MAKE OUR VISION A REALITY. ~~THE ALLEGED~~
WHAT WE NEED TO DO

We face an uphill battle. Yet the path we need to take is clear.

chair, vice-chair, state committee member, and on down the line.
4 voting members
chair, vice, state committee member, women, &
It starts now. I encourage you to fill every vacant office tonight. Next, in a few months, you will elect new county chairs. Make sure that you select people who will participate and be part of the process. That is the only way you will have a voice in the party. THEN, IN JUNE YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE YOUR VOTING MEMBERS ~~SELECT THE BEST CANDIDATE TO HEAD OUR PARTY~~. EVERY COUNTY HAS AN EQUAL VOICE -- MAKE SURE IT IS HEARD.
JUNE
VOTE 4
STATE
CHAIR

Third, during the next year, we need to recruit candidates for all 125 Legislature seats. We must seek out people who are dedicated to public service. If you are unable to find anyone in your district, you ought to run yourself. You owe it to your party, your state, your neighbors.

And fourth, if you already have a candidate in your district, go out and recruit at least ten new dues-paying Democratic party members. People who will work the phones and get out the vote on election day. Who will make sure we compete and win in every precinct. Who will elect our candidates, and make our vision of Montana's future a reality.

I know the things I've just said aren't easy. I am asking you for your help. But at the same time, I am making a commitment to you. I am raising the bar for myself.

A few weeks ago, I sent over 8,000 letters to Montanans -- some of them Independents, some Democrats who have drifted away and even some Republicans -- asking them to become members of the Democratic party. I will continue this work.

And that leads me to my final point, you have one more election tonight that you didn't expect. I want you to elect someone at the meeting tonight to give me a call tomorrow. I want your designee to let me know how your elections turn out. I also want that person to give me at least two suggestions as to what I can do to help the Montana Democratic party. I want to play an active role in the party and I need your input.

CONCLUSION

Together we can rejuvenate the Montana Democratic party. I envision great things on our horizon. As Democrats, we stand for what is best about America. We need to fight proudly for what we believe in. And if we do, two years from tonight we will sit down at these elections with a lot more to celebrate.

Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
To Democratic Central Committee Elections

Good evening, everyone.

It's good to be speaking to you all tonight. Before I begin, I want to say two words -- Thank You. I had a very tough race last year. Without your help, your advice, and your activism, it might not have turned out so well.

~~I have to tell you that I've been a lot lonelier out here in Washington without Pat. It's gotten a lot lonelier out in Washington these days.~~
I'm missing Pat more than ever.

IMPORTANCE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING

~~And that's why what~~ ~~What~~ ~~you are doing tonight will have a tremendous impact on the Democratic party and Montana.~~ ~~Tonight~~ ~~you~~ will be deciding the future of our party -- who will lead us and who will make decisions as we go forward. Make no mistake about it, you are undertaking serious business tonight. Our founding fathers first got together in rooms probably very similar to this one. They started at the grassroots level -- just like we must now do.

~~And sure~~
~~To be sure,~~ we've come a long way since the revolutionary times of our country's beginnings. But today the situations we face are very grave. The Montana Democratic party is at a crossroads. It is fair to say we are in trouble. In the past few years, we've lost a lot of races we should have won. We struggled in some that should have been easy. We've been outnumbered nearly 2-1 in both of the last two sessions of the Legislature.

We cannot allow that anymore. Because these results are more than statistics in history books. They mean real decisions about the quality of life we all enjoy. We have witnessed the travesty of a Legislature rejecting aid to education, cutting university funding and debating the proposals of militia groups.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO

We face an uphill battle. Yet the path we need to take is clear.

^{tonight} It starts ^{now} ~~tonight~~. ~~Tonight~~ I encourage you to fill every ^{Country} office. There ~~is~~ a burden that we all must share. ~~Then~~ ^{Next}, in a few months, you will elect new chairs. Make sure that you select people who will ~~be~~ participate and be part of the process. That is the only way you will have a ^{voice in the party} ~~voice~~. Third, during the next year, we need to recruit candidates for all 125 Legislature seats. We must seek out people who are dedicated to public service. ~~And~~ ^{if} you are unable to find anyone in your district, you ought to run yourself. ~~And~~ ^{And} fourth, if you already have a candidate in your district, ~~you should~~ go out and recruit at least ten new dues-paying Democratic party members. People who will work the phones and get out the vote on election day. Who will make sure we compete and win in every precinct. Who will elect our candidates, and make our vision of Montana's future a reality.

I know the things I've just said aren't easy ^{I am raising the bar for myself} to achieve. ~~Quite frankly~~, I am asking you for your help. But at the same time, I am making a commitment to you. A few weeks ago, I sent over 8,000 letters to Montanans -- some ^{of them} Independents, some Democrats who have drifted away and even some Republicans -- asking them to ^{become members of the} ~~join us in the~~ Democratic ^{party} ~~team~~. ~~I've also been making calls to folks and asking them for their help in our battle.~~ And I will continue this work.

And that leads me to my final point, ^{you have} ~~I have to tell you that~~ ~~there is~~ one more election tonight that you didn't expect. I want you to elect someone at the meeting tonight to give me a call tomorrow. I want your designee to let me know how your elections turn out. I also want that person to give me at least two suggestions as to what I can do to help the Montana Democratic party. ^{I want to play an active role in the party and I need your input.}

CONCLUSION

TOGETHER WE CAN REJUVENATE THE MONTANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
~~Through it all~~, I envision great things on our horizon. We are Democrats and we stand for what is best about America. We need to fight proudly for what we believe in. ~~AND IF WE DO,~~
TWO YEARS FROM ~~TONIGHT~~ WE WILL SIT DOWN @ ~~THESE~~ ELECTIONS w/ A LOT MORE TO CELEBRATE.

Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
To Democratic Central Committee Elections

Good evening, everyone.

It's an honor to be speaking to you tonight. Before I begin, I want to say two words -- Thank You. I had a very tough race last year. Without your help, your advice, and your activism, it might not have turned out so well.

IMPORTANCE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING

But The face of the Montana delegation in Washington has changed a lot since I first came here. We're down to two Republicans and one Democrat. And this year Pat's Democratic leadership will be sorely missed. *Look at the Legislature, etc.*

That election, and the election of our Dem state officers, can't hang a leg over the
~~But we are still a proud party -- with a vision that is~~ *because of the party*
~~right for Montana.~~ We stand for the values that are the core of *needing something*
what is best about America: fairness, compassion, freedom and
opportunity. I believe the Montana Democratic party can
translate these values from rhetoric to policy.

And that is why your task is more important than ever. You will be deciding the future of our party -- who will lead us and who will make decisions as we go forward. Make no mistake about it, you are undertaking serious business tonight. Our founding fathers first got together in rooms probably very similar to this one. They started at the grassroots level -- just like we must now do.

~~We've come a long way since the revolutionary times of our country's beginnings. But today the situations we face are very grave. The Montana Democratic party is at a crossroads. It is fair to say we are in trouble.~~ In the past few years, we've lost a lot of races we should have won. We struggled in some that should have been easy. We've been outnumbered nearly 2-1 in both of the last two sessions of the Legislature.

We cannot allow that anymore. Because these results are more than statistics in history books. They mean real decisions about the quality of life we all enjoy. We have witnessed the travesty of a Legislature rejecting aid to education, cutting

university funding and debating the proposals of militia groups.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO
We need to start working today, before it's too late. We face an uphill battle. Yet the path we need to take is clear. To turn it around.

It starts now. I encourage you to fill every vacant office tonight -- chair, vice-chair, state committee man and state committee woman. Then, in June you need to make sure your voting members select the best candidate to hear our party. Every county has an equal voice -- make sure yours is heard.

Third, during the next year, we need to recruit candidates for all 125 Legislature seats. ~~We must seek out people who are dedicated to public service.~~ *district doesn't have a candidate* If you are unable to find anyone in your district, you ought to run yourself. You owe it to your party, your state, your neighbors.

And fourth, if you already have a candidate in your district, go out and recruit at least ten new dues-paying Democratic party members. People who will work the phones and get out the vote on election day. Who will make sure we compete and win in every precinct. Who will elect our candidates, and make our vision of Montana's future a reality.

I know the things I've just said aren't easy. I am asking you for your help. But at the same time, I am making a commitment to you. I am raising the bar for myself.

A few weeks ago, I sent over 8,000 letters to Montanans -- some of them Independents, some Democrats who have drifted away and even some Republicans -- asking them to become members of the Democratic party. I will continue this work.

And that leads me to my final point, ~~you have one more election tonight that you didn't expect.~~ *to* I want you to elect someone at the meeting tonight to give me a call tomorrow. I want your designee to let me know how your elections turn out. I also want that person to give me at least two suggestions *as to* what I can do to help the Montana Democratic party. ~~I want to play an active role in the party and I need your input.~~ *state wide or in your county*

CONCLUSION

Together we can rejuvenate the Montana Democratic party. I envision great things on our horizon. As Democrats, we stand for what is best about America. We need to fight ~~proudly~~ for what we believe in. And if we do, two years from tonight we will sit down at these elections ~~with a lot more to celebrate.~~ — and think about how to keep a winning streak alive.

Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
To Democratic Central Committee Elections

Good evening, everyone.

It is an honor to be speaking to you tonight. Before I begin, I want to say two words -- Thank You. I had a very tough race last year. Without your help, your advice, and your activism, it might not have turned out so well.

IMPORTANCE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING

My election -- or the election of any other Democrat -- is more than just a victory on election night. Because we as Democrats stand for more than that. We stand for the values that are the core of what is best about America: fairness, compassion, freedom and opportunity. I believe the Montana Democratic Party can translate these values from rhetoric to action.

That is why your task^{tonight} is more important than ever. You will be deciding the future of our party -- who will lead us and who will make decisions as we go forward. Make no mistake about it, you are undertaking serious business tonight. Our founding fathers first got together in rooms probably very similar to this one. They started at the grassroots level -- just like we must now do.

The Montana Democratic party is at a crossroads. In the past few years, we've lost a lot of races we should have won. And we've struggled in some that should have been easy.

We cannot allow that anymore. Because these results are more than statistics in history books. They mean real decisions about the quality of life we all enjoy. We have witnessed the travesty of a Legislature rejecting aid to education, cutting university funding and debating the proposals of militia groups.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO

We need to start working harder than we ever have before to turn it around.

It starts now. Tonight I will ask you to do four things. First, I encourage you to fill every vacant office tonight -- chair, vice-chair, state committee man and state committee woman. ¶ Second, in June you need to make sure your voting members go to Lewistown and select the best candidate to lead our party. Every county has an equal voice -- make sure yours is heard.

Third, during the next year, we need to recruit candidates for all 125 Legislature seats. ¶ If your district doesn't have a candidate, you ought to run yourself. You owe it to your party, your state, your neighbors.

And fourth, if you already have a candidate in your district, go out and recruit at least ten new dues-paying Democratic party members. People who will work the phones and get out the vote on election day. Who will make sure we compete and win in every precinct. Who will elect our candidates, and make our vision of Montana's future a reality.

I know the things I've just said aren't easy. I am asking you for your help.

¶ But at the same time, I am making a commitment to you. I am raising the bar for myself.

Over the past several weeks, I have sent letters and talked to lots of Montanans -- some of them Independents, some Democrats who have drifted away and even some Republicans. I've been asking them to become members of the Democratic party. So far over a hundred Montanans have told me they want to join ~~the Democratic party~~. I will continue this work.

And that leads me to my final point. I want you to elect someone at the meeting tonight to give me a call tomorrow. I want your designee to tell me how your elections turn out. I also want that person to give me at least two suggestions as to what I can do to help the Montana Democratic party -- state-wide or in your county. ¶ ~~Get a pen.~~ The number I want you to call (202) 224-3639. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A PEN.

CONCLUSION

As Democrats, we stand for what is best about America. To us fairness, compassion, freedom and opportunity are more than just rhetoric and abstract ideas. They stand for the building blocks of our society. A good education, a clean environment, a fair shot and a helping hand. The things that all Montanans deserve.

That is what we believe. And that is what we must now fight for. Together we can rejuvenate the Montana Democratic party. We will take back our rightful status as Montana's majority party.

Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
To Democratic Central Committee Elections

Good evening, everyone.

It is an honor to be speaking to you tonight. Before I begin, I want to say two words -- Thank You. I had a very tough race last year. Without your help, your advice, and your activism, it might not have turned out so well.

IMPORTANCE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING

My election -- or the election of any other Democrat -- is more than just a victory on election night. Because we as Democrats stand for more than that. We stand for the values that are the core of what is best about America: fairness, compassion, freedom and opportunity. I believe the Montana Democratic Party can translate these values from rhetoric to action.

That means improving education. Making sure that our children are prepared to compete when they enter the ever-changing marketplace.

That means protecting the environment. Ensuring that we pass on clean air, water and forests to our children.

That means watching out for those in our society who are most needy. Giving a helping hand to friends and neighbors when they've fallen on hard times.

That means maintaining a sound economy where Montanans can find decent jobs with livable wages.

Those are the values we believe in. But the face of the Montana Democratic Party has changed a lot in recent years. We're down to one Democrat in our Washington delegation. And this year Pat's Democratic leadership will be sorely missed. Or look at the Legislature, where for the past two sessions Democrats have been outnumbered 2-1.

That is why your task is more important than ever. You will be deciding the future of our party -- who will lead us and who will make decisions as we go forward. Make no mistake about it, you are undertaking serious business tonight. Our founding fathers first got together in rooms probably very similar to this one. They started at the grassroots level -- just like we must now do.

The Montana Democratic party is at a crossroads. In the past few years, we've lost a lot of races we should have won. And we've struggled in some that should have been easy.

We cannot allow that anymore. Because these results are more than statistics in history books. They mean real decisions about the quality of life we all enjoy. We have witnessed the travesty of a Legislature rejecting aid to education, cutting university funding and debating the proposals of militia groups.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO

We need to start working harder than we ever have before to turn it around.

TONIGHT I WILL ASK YOU TO DO 4 THINGS:

It starts now. ^{1st} I encourage you to fill every vacant office tonight -- chair, vice-chair, state committee man and state committee woman. ^{2nd} Then, in June you need to make sure your voting members ^{GO TO BOZEMAN AND} select the best candidate to ^{lead} ~~hear~~ our party. Every county has an equal voice -- make sure yours is heard.

Third, during the next year, we need to recruit candidates for all 125 Legislature seats.

If your district doesn't have a candidate, you ought to run yourself. You owe it to your party, your state, your neighbors.

And fourth, if you already have a candidate in your district, go out and recruit at least ten new dues-paying Democratic party members. People who will work the phones and get out the vote on election day. Who will make sure we compete and win in every precinct. Who will elect our candidates, and

make our vision of Montana's future a reality.

I know the things I've just said aren't easy. I am asking you for your help. But at the same time, I am making a commitment to you. I am raising the bar for myself.

Over the past several weeks, I have sent letters and talked to lots of Montanans -- some of them Independents, some Democrats who have drifted away and even some Republicans. I've been asking them to become members of the Democratic party. I will continue this work.

And that leads me to my final point. I want you to elect someone at the meeting tonight to give me a call tomorrow. I want your designee to let me know how your elections turn out. I also want that person to give me at least two suggestions as to what I can do to help the Montana Democratic party -- state-wide or in your county.

~~LET~~ GET A PEN. THE NUMBER IS: (202) 224-3639

CONCLUSION

As Democrats, we stand for what is best about America. To us fairness, compassion, freedom and opportunity are more than just rhetoric and abstract ideas. They stand for the building blocks of our society. A good education, a clean environment, a fair shot and a helping hand. The things that all Montanans deserve.

That is what we believe. And that is what we must now fight for. Together we can rejuvenate the Montana Democratic party. We will take back our rightful status as Montana's majority party.

And if we do, two years from tonight we will sit down at these elections and think about how to keep a winning streak alive.

Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
To Democratic Central Committee Elections

Good evening, everyone. Before I begin, I have to tell you that there will be one more election than you expected tonight. I want you to elect someone here at this meeting to call me tomorrow. I'd like this person to tell me what transpired at the meeting and who was elected to the various positions. And finally, I want you to give me at least two ideas of what I can do in the coming months and years to help the Democratic Party in Montana.

I want this report because I believe that what you are doing tonight will have a tremendous impact on what the Democratic party and Montana will be like in the future.

We cannot allow that anymore. Because these results are more than statistics in history books. They mean real decisions about the quality of life we all enjoy. We have witnessed the travesty of a Legislature rejecting aid to education, cutting university funding and debating the proposals of militia groups.

Tonight you will be deciding the future of our party -- who will lead us and who will make decisions as we go forward. Make no mistake about it, you are undertaking serious business tonight. Our founding fathers first got together in rooms probably very similar to this one. They started at the grassroots level -- just like we must now do.

To be sure, we've come a long way since the revolutionary times of our country's beginnings. But today the situations we face are very grave. The Montana Democratic party is at a crossroads. It is fair to say we are in trouble. In the past few years, we've lost a lot of races we should have won. We struggled in some that should have been easy. We've been outnumbered nearly 2-1 in both of the last two sessions of the Legislature.

WE FACE AN UPHILL BATTLE...

~~TO BE~~ IN BATTLE ~~WE~~ WE NEED TO DO:

1. TONIGHT ELECT PEOPLE TO EVERY POSITION
2. ELECT PEOPLE WHO WILL PARTICIPATE & MAKE SURE

YOUR VOICE
IS HEARD.

3. RECRUIT CANDIDATES.

- IF NOT - RUN YOURSELF

4. RECRUIT MEMBERS

- I SENT OUT LETTERS TO 8,000 PEOPLE
- AND I WILL CONTINUE TO DO MORE.

- I'M ASKING A LOT. I KNOW THAT. BUT I PLAN TO
I'M RAISING THE BAR.

(AL DISCUSS) - I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I HADN'T PLAN ON DOING MORE MYSELF.

Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
To Democratic Central Committee Elections

Good evening, everyone.

It's good to be speaking to you all tonight. I have to tell you that things have gotten a lot lonelier for me out here in Washington lately.

Before I begin, I have to tell you that there will be one more election than you expected tonight. I want you to elect someone here at this meeting to call me tomorrow. I'd like this person to tell me what transpired at the meeting and who was elected to the various positions. And finally, I want you to give me at least two ideas of what I can do in the coming months and years to help the Democratic Party in Montana.

I want this report because I believe that what you are doing tonight will have a tremendous impact on what the Democratic party and Montana will be like in the future.

Tonight you will be deciding the future of our party -- who will lead us and who will make decisions as we go forward. Make no mistake about it, you are undertaking serious business tonight. Our founding fathers first got together in rooms probably very similar to this one. They started at the grassroots level -- just like we must now do.

To be sure, we've come a long way since the revolutionary times of our country's beginnings. But today the situations we face are very grave. The Montana Democratic party is at a crossroads. It is fair to say we are in trouble. In the past few years, we've lost a lot of races we should have won. We struggled in some that should have been easy. We've been outnumbered nearly 2-1 in both of the last two sessions of the Legislature.

We cannot allow that anymore. Because these results are more than statistics in history books. They mean real decisions about the quality of life we all enjoy. We have witnessed the travesty of a Legislature rejecting aid to education, cutting university funding and debating the proposals of militia groups.

We face an uphill battle. Yet the path we need to take is

clear.

It starts tonight. Tonight I encourage you to fill every office. There is a burden that we all must share. Then, in a few months, you will elect new chairs. Make sure that you select people who will be participate and be part of the process. That is the only way you will have a vote. Third, during the next year, we need to recruit candidates for all 125 Legislature seats. We must seek out people who are dedicated to public service. And if you are unable to find anyone in your district, you ought to run yourself. And fourth, if you already have a candidate in your district, you should go out and recruit at least ten new dues-paying Democratic party members. People who will work the phones and get out the vote on election day. Who will make sure we compete and win in every precinct. Who will elect our candidates, and make our vision of Montana's future a reality.

I know the things I've just said aren't easy to achieve. Quite frankly, I am asking you for your help. But at the same time, I am making a commitment to you. A few weeks ago, I sent over 8,000 letters to Montanans -- some Independents, some Democrats who have drifted away and even some Republicans -- asking them to join us in the Democratic tent. I've also been making calls to folks and asking them for their help in our battle. And I will continue this work.

And that leads me to my final point, I have to tell you that there is one more election tonight that you didn't expect. I want you to elect someone at the meeting tonight to give me a call tomorrow. I want your designee to let me know how your elections turn out. I also want that person to give me at least two suggestions as to what I can do to help the Montana Democratic party.

Through it all, I envision great things on our horizon. We are Democrats and we stand for what is best about America. We need to fight proudly for what we believe in.